

Jordan model for contractions of class C_{\circ}

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1. Preliminaries

a) Let $A=[a_{ik}]$ and $B=[b_{ik}]$ be $n \times m$ matrices over the algebra H^∞ of bounded holomorphic functions in the (open) unit disc, or equivalently, of their (nontangential) limit functions on the unit circle. E. NORDGREN [3] introduced a notion of "quasi-equivalence" for such matrices, which can be defined as follows (cf. J. SZŰCS [6]):

Definition. A and B are *quasi-equivalent* if for every (scalar valued) inner function ω there exist an $n \times n$ matrix Φ and an $m \times m$ matrix Ψ over H^∞ , such that

$$(1.1) \quad \Phi A = B \Psi,$$

$$(1.2) \quad (\det \Phi) (\det \Psi) \wedge \omega = 1.^1)$$

Note that this relation is symmetric. Indeed, (1.1) implies

$$(1.1)' \quad \Phi' B = A \Psi' \quad \text{for} \quad \Phi' = (\det \Psi) \Phi^A \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi' = (\det \Phi) \Psi^A,$$

where the superscript A denotes algebraic conjugate. As we have

$$\det \Phi' = (\det \Psi)^n (\det \Phi)^{n-1}, \quad \det \Psi' = (\det \Phi)^m (\det \Psi)^{m-1},$$

(1.2) implies

$$(1.2)' \quad (\det \Phi') (\det \Psi') \wedge \omega = 1.$$

It is also obvious that quasi-equivalence is a reflexive and transitive relation.

b) We shall have to do in particular with *inner* functions A, B , i.e. for which $A^* A = I_n$, $B^* B = I_m$ a.e. on the unit circle. In this case we necessarily have $n \cong m$.

With every $n \times m$ matrix inner function C we associate an operator²⁾ $S(C)$

¹⁾ For functions $v_\alpha \in H^\infty$, not all zero, we denote by $\bigwedge_\alpha v_\alpha$ the largest common inner divisor of the v_α . In case of a finite system we also use the notation $v_1 \wedge \dots \wedge v_N$ instead of $\bigwedge_1^N v_k$.

on the Hilbert space $\mathfrak{H}(C)$ defined by

$$(1.3) \quad \mathfrak{H}(C) = H_n^2 \ominus C H_m^2, \quad S(C)u = P_{\mathfrak{H}(C)}(\chi u) \quad \text{for } u \in \mathfrak{H}(C);$$

H_k^2 denotes the Hilbert space of (column) k -vectors over the space H^2 for the unit disc, P denotes orthogonal projection, and

$$\chi(\lambda) = \lambda.$$

c) We shall need among others the following fact from the theory of determinants (see e.g. [5], pp. 26—30):

Let U and V be $n \times m$ matrices over a commutative ring, $n \geq m$. Then we have

$$(1.4) \quad \det(V'U) = \sum_{\sigma} \det V_{\sigma} \cdot \det U_{\sigma},$$

where σ runs over the set Σ_m^n of subsets $\sigma = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\}$ ($i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_m$) of the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$, V' denotes the transpose of V , and U_{σ} , V_{σ} denote the minors of U and V composed of the m rows indicated by σ . In particular if U is an $n \times m$ matrix ($n \geq m$) over the complex field then taking for V the complex conjugate of U we derive from (1.4) that

$$(1.5) \quad \det(U^*U) = \sum_{\sigma} |\det U_{\sigma}|^2.$$

This formula readily extends to the case of an $\infty \times m$ matrix $U = [u_{ik}]$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots$; $k = 1, \dots, m$) with finite $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |u_{ik}|^2$ for each k ($k = 1, \dots, m$). Thus in particular we have for any isometric matrix U , i.e. with $U^*U = I_m$ ($m < \infty$), the equation

$$(1.6) \quad 1 = \sum_{\sigma} |\det U_{\sigma}|^2$$

where σ runs over Σ_m^n or Σ_m^{∞} according as the number of rows is a finite number $n (\geq m)$ or infinite.

d) An operator X from a Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} into a Hilbert space \mathfrak{H}' will be called an *injection* if it is one-to-one, or equivalently, if $\ker X = \{0\}$. A family $\{X_{\alpha}\}$ of injections $X_{\alpha}: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}'$ will be called *complete* if

$$\bigvee_{\alpha} X_{\alpha} \mathfrak{H} = \mathfrak{H}'.$$

Thus this concept of a complete family of injections extends the notion of quasi-affinity for a single operator. Note that if $\{X_{\alpha}\}$ is a complete family of injections $X_{\alpha}: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}'$ and $\{X'_{\beta}\}$ is a complete family of injections $X'_{\beta}: \mathfrak{H}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}''$ then $\{X'_{\beta} X_{\alpha}\}$ is a complete family of injections $X'_{\beta} X_{\alpha}: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}''$.

If T is an operator on \mathfrak{H} and T' is an operator on \mathfrak{H}' we say that T is *injected*

²⁾ By operator we mean a continuous linear transformation.

into T if there is an injection $X: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}'$ such that $T'X = XT$; then we write:

$$T' \succ^i T.$$

If there exists even a complete family $\{X_\alpha\}$ of injections $X_\alpha: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}'$ such that $T'X_\alpha = X_\alpha T$ for each α then we write

$$T' \succ^{cl} T.$$

If this “complete family of injections” can be chosen to consist of a single operator, i.e. if there exists a quasi-affinity $X: \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}'$ such that $T'X = XT$, then, according to our earlier adopted terminology, we call T a quasi-affine transform of T' and write

$$T' \succ T.$$

Thus \succ implies \succ^{cl} , and this in turn implies \succ^i . Also note that each of these relations is reflexive and transitive. They induce equivalence relations

$$(1.7) \quad T' \sim^i T, \quad T' \sim^{cl} T, \quad T' \sim T,$$

e.g. $T' \sim^i T$ meaning that both $T' \succ^i T$ and $T \succ^i T'$ hold.

Observe that for operators on finite dimensional space each of these equivalence relations coincides with *similarity*. However, for operators on infinite dimensional space they are different from similarity $T' \approx T$, which requires the existence of a bicontinuous operator X from \mathfrak{H} onto \mathfrak{H}' such that $T'X = XT$.

The equivalence relation $T' \sim T$ was introduced in our previous papers and in our book [H], and called *quasi-similarity*. We shall call the two other equivalence relations in (1.7) *injection-similarity* and *complete injection-similarity*, respectively.

e) For an operator T on \mathfrak{H} the multiplicity μ_T is defined as the minimal cardinality of a set \mathfrak{S} of vectors in \mathfrak{H} such that $\mathfrak{S}, T\mathfrak{S}, T^2\mathfrak{S}, \dots$ span \mathfrak{H} . It is immediate that

$$(1.8) \quad T' \succ T \text{ implies } \mu_{T'} \leq \mu_T.$$

More generally, if $T' \succ^{cl} T$ and if $\mathcal{X} = \{X_\alpha\}$ is a corresponding complete system of injections then

$$(1.9) \quad \mu_{T'} \leq (\text{card } \mathcal{X}) \cdot \mu_T.$$

Indeed one has only to consider for T' the set $\mathfrak{S}' = \bigcup_\alpha X_\alpha \mathfrak{S}$.

For any contraction T of class $C_{.0}$ we have

$$(1.10) \quad \mu_T \leq \mathfrak{d}_{T^*}; \quad \text{cf. [8].}$$

For a unilateral shift S_L on \mathfrak{H} the multiplicity L is defined by

$$\dim(\mathfrak{H} \ominus S_L \mathfrak{H}).$$

The two kinds of multiplicity coincide:

$$(1.11) \quad \mu_{S_L} = L.$$

Indeed, if \mathfrak{S} is any "generating" set for S_L then

$$\mathfrak{H} \ominus S_L \mathfrak{H} = \bigvee_{n=0}^{\infty} S_L^n \mathfrak{S} \ominus \bigvee_{n=1}^{\infty} S_L^n \mathfrak{S} = \overline{P[\mathfrak{S}]},$$

where P denotes orthogonal projection onto $\mathfrak{H} \ominus S_L \mathfrak{H}$, and $[\mathfrak{S}]$ denotes the subspace spanned by \mathfrak{S} ; thus,

$$L = \dim(\mathfrak{H} \ominus S_L \mathfrak{H}) \cong \dim[\mathfrak{S}] \cong \text{card } \mathfrak{S},$$

and hence $L \cong \mu_{S_L}$. Comparing this with (1.10), where in case $T = S_L$ we have $\mathfrak{d}_{T^*} = L$, we get (1.11).

In contrast to (1.11) we have

$$(1.12) \quad \mu_{S_L^*} = 1 \text{ for any (countable) } L \cong 1:$$

result of D. SARASON, cf. [1], Problem 126, or [10].

2. Quasi-equivalence of A and B implies complete injection-similarity of $S(A)$ and $S(B)$

We are going to prove the following

Theorem 1. *Let A and B be $n \times m$ matrix valued inner functions over H^∞ ($n \cong m$) and suppose they are quasi-equivalent. Then $S(A)$ and $S(B)$ are completely injection-similar. Moreover, the corresponding complete systems of injections can be chosen to consist of two injections each, say $\{X, X'\}$ and $\{Y, Y'\}$. If $m = n$, they can be chosen even as singletons $\{X\}$, $\{Y\}$, thus $S(A)$ and $S(B)$ are then quasi-similar.*

Remark. The assertion for the case $n = m$ was already proved in [2].

Proof. As A is inner its values $A(e^{it})$ on the unit circle are isometries, a.e. Thus by (1.6) we have

$$(2.1) \quad 1 = \sum_{\sigma} |\det A_{\sigma}(e^{it})|^2 \text{ a.e.,}$$

and therefore there exists at least one $\sigma \in \Sigma_m^n$ for which $\det A_{\sigma}(e^{it})$ is non-zero on a set of positive measure — and therefore a.e. on the unit circle.

Let

$$\omega = \bigwedge_{\sigma} \det A_{\sigma}.$$

By virtue of the assumption on A and B to be quasi-equivalent, we readily infer

that there exist pairs of matrices, say Φ, Ψ and Φ_1, Ψ_1 satisfying (1.1) and such that the conditions

$$(2.2) \quad (\det \Psi) \wedge \omega = 1, \quad (\det \Psi_1) \wedge \omega = 1,$$

$$(2.3) \quad (\det \Phi) \wedge (\det \Phi_1) = 1 \quad |$$

are fulfilled.

In the case $m=n$ it will suffice to choose just one pair, say Φ, Ψ , satisfying (1.1) and

$$(2.4) \quad (\det \Psi) \wedge \omega = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad (\det \Phi) \wedge (\det B) = 1.$$

We first show how (1.1) implies that the operator $X: \mathfrak{H}(A) \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}(B)$ defined by

$$(2.5) \quad Xu = P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)} \Phi u \quad \text{for} \quad u \in \mathfrak{H}(A)$$

satisfies the equation

$$(2.6) \quad S(B)X = XS(A). \dagger$$

Indeed, relying on definitions (1.3) and (2.5) we deduce for $u \in \mathfrak{H}(A)$:

$$\begin{aligned} XS(A)u &= P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)} \Phi P_{\mathfrak{H}(A)}(\chi u) = \\ &= P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)} \Phi(\chi u - A w) \quad \text{for some} \quad w \in H_m^2 \\ &= P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)}(\chi \Phi u - B \Psi w) = P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)}(\chi \Phi u) \\ &= P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)} \chi(P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)} \Phi u + B w') \quad \text{for some} \quad w' \in H_m^2 \\ &= P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)}(\chi P_{\mathfrak{H}(B)} \Phi u) = S(B)Xu. \end{aligned}$$

Next we deduce from (the first) condition (2.2) that X is an injection. By virtue of (2.5) we have to show that the condition

$$(2.7) \quad \Phi u = B w \quad \text{for some} \quad u \in \mathfrak{H}(A) \quad \text{and} \quad w \in H_m^2$$

implies $u=0$.

To this effect we observe that, by (1.1) and (2.7),

$$\Phi A \Psi^A w = B \Psi \Psi^A w = (\det \Psi) B w = (\det \Psi) \Phi u.$$

Multiplying on the left by Φ^A and then dividing by $\det \Phi$ we obtain

$$(2.8) \quad A w' = (\det \Psi) u, \quad \text{where} \quad w' = \Psi^A w \in H_m^2.$$

Now multiply by A^* on the left: as A is an inner function we shall have

$$(2.9) \quad w' = (\det \Psi) f, \quad \text{where} \quad f = A^* u,$$

a.e. on the unit circle. Note that $f \in L_m^2$.

From (2.8) and (2.9) we also deduce:

$$(\det \Psi) u = A w' = (\det \Psi) A f;$$

whence,

$$(2.10) \quad u = Af.$$

As we have

$$\Phi u = \begin{cases} Bw & \text{by (2.7)} \\ \Phi Af = B\Psi f & \text{by (2.10) and (1.1),} \end{cases}$$

multiplying by B^* on the left we get

$$(2.11) \quad w = \Psi f$$

a.e. on the unit circle, and therefore

$$(2.12) \quad (\det \Psi)f = \Psi^A \Psi f = \Psi^A w \in H_m^2.$$

On the other hand, if we denote by u_σ and A_σ the vector and the matrix formed by the rows of u and A indicated by $\sigma = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \in \Sigma_m^n$, then (2.10) implies $u_\sigma = A_\sigma f$, and therefore

$$(2.13) \quad (\det A_\sigma)f = A_\sigma^A A_\sigma f = A_\sigma^A u_\sigma \in H_m^2.$$

Now recall condition (2.2): Ψ was chosen so that $\det \Psi$ and $\det A_\sigma$ ($\sigma \in \Sigma_m^n$) have no non-constant common inner divisor. Thus, applying a lemma of [7] we deduce from (2.12) and (2.13) that

$$(2.14) \quad f \in H_m^{2, 3})$$

From (2.10) and (2.14) we deduce that $u \in AH_m^2$. Since by assumption we have $u \in \mathfrak{S}(A)$ we conclude that $u=0$.

Thus we proved that the operator X derived from Φ by (2.5) is an injection with the intertwining property (2.6). These properties obviously hold for the operator X_1 derived from the function Φ_1 , as well.

It remains to show that the ranges of X and X' together span the space $\mathfrak{S}(B)$ — and if $m=n$ then so does the range of X alone.

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} X\mathfrak{S}(A) &= P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)} \Phi \mathfrak{S}(A) = P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)} \Phi [\mathfrak{S}(A) \oplus AH_m^2] \\ &= P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)} \Phi H_n^2, \end{aligned} \quad \text{because } \Phi AH_m^2 = B\Psi H_m^2 \subset BH_m^2 \perp \mathfrak{S}(B)$$

and therefore,

$$X\mathfrak{S}(A) \supset P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)} \Phi (\Phi^A H_n^2) = P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)} (\det \Phi) H_n^2,$$

and by the same reason,

$$X_1 \mathfrak{S}(A) \supset P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)} (\det \Phi_1) H_n^2.$$

³⁾ This lemma asserts that if $w_\alpha \in H^\infty$ and $w_\alpha f \in H^1$, where $f \in L^1$ and not all w_α are zero, then

$$\left(\bigwedge_\alpha w_\alpha \right) f \in H^1.$$

As by condition (2.3)

$$(\det \Phi) \wedge (\det \Phi_1) = 1,$$

we have

$$(\det \Phi) H_n^2 \vee (\det \Phi_1) H_n^2 = H_n^2$$

by Beurling's theorem; hence the ranges of X and X_1 span $\mathfrak{S}(B)$.

In the case $m=n$ we have, by the second condition (2.4) and again by Beurling's theorem,

$$(\det \Phi) H_m^2 \vee (\det B) H_m^2 = H_m^2;$$

as $P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)}(\det B) H_m^2 \subset P_{\mathfrak{S}(B)} B H_m^2 = \{0\}$ we conclude that the range of X alone spans $\mathfrak{S}(B)$.

Thus $\{X, X'\}$ is a complete system of injections of $S(A)$ into $S(B)$, and if $m=n$ then X is a quasi-affinity.

The proof of Theorem 1 will be done if only we recall that quasi-equivalence of the matrices A and B is a symmetric relation so that the above constructions can be carried out with the roles of A and B interchanged.

Using inequality (1.8) we deduce from Theorem 1:

Corollary. For A, B as in Theorem 1, we have

$$(2.15) \quad \mu_{S(A)} \cong 2\mu_{S(B)}, \quad \mu_{S(B)} \cong 2\mu_{S(A)}.$$

3. Jordan model

Now we can refer to a theorem of NORDGREN [3] according to which every $n \times m$ matrix Θ over H^∞ is quasi-equivalent to the corresponding matrix Θ' in "normal form". If $n \geq m$ and Θ has full rank, i.e. has a non-zero minor of order m with non-zero determinant, then Θ' is defined by

$$(3.1) \quad \Theta' = \left[\begin{array}{cccc} e_1 & & & 0 \\ & e_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & e_m \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{array} \right] \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{c} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{array}} \right\} n-m$$

where e_1, \dots, e_m are the "invariant factors" of Θ . That is,

$$(3.2) \quad e_k = d_{m-k+1}/d_{m-k} \quad (k = 1, \dots, m),$$

where $d_0=1$ and d_i is, for $i=1, \dots, m$, the largest common inner divisor of the determinants of the minors of order i ; e_{k+1} turns out to be a divisor of e_k ($k=1, \dots, m-1$).

Consider in particular an *inner* function Θ ; then $n \geq m$ and the full rank condition is satisfied, because by (1.6) we have

$$\sum_{\sigma} |\det \Theta_{\sigma}(e^t)|^2 = 1 \quad (\sigma \in \Sigma_m^n),$$

a.e. on the unit circle, and therefore there exists at least one σ for which $\det \Theta_{\sigma} \neq 0$.

From (3.1) we deduce that

$$(3.3) \quad S(\Theta') = S(e_1) \oplus \dots \oplus S(e_m) \oplus \underbrace{S \oplus \dots \oplus S}_{n-m},$$

where S is the (simple) unilateral shift

$$S: u \rightarrow \lambda u \quad \text{on } H^2.$$

Now it is known (cf. [H]) that the general form, up to unitary equivalence, of a contraction T of class $C_{.0}^4$ on a (separable) Hilbert space \mathfrak{H} , and with *finite* defect indices, say

$$d_T = m \quad \text{and} \quad d_{T^*} = n,^5$$

is the operator $S(\Theta)$ generated by an $n \times m$ matrix valued, pure,⁶ inner function Θ over H^∞ ; Θ is determined, up to constant unitary factors, uniquely by T (the “characteristic function” of T).

Thus, on account of our Theorem 1, every such operator T is completely injection-similar to the corresponding operator $S(\Theta')$ given by (3.3), and if $m=n$ then it is even quasi-similar to $S(\Theta')$.

Generalizing a notation introduced in [9] let us call *Jordan operator* any operator of the form

$$(3.4) \quad S(p_1) \oplus S(p_2) \oplus \dots \oplus S(p_R) \oplus \underbrace{S \oplus \dots \oplus S}_{L \text{ times}},$$

where p_1, p_2, \dots, p_R are non-constant (scalar valued) inner functions, each of which being a divisor of its predecessor, and $R \geq 0, L \geq 0$; we also use the shorter notation

$$(3.4)' \quad S(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_R) \oplus S_L.$$

⁴) For the definition of the classes $C_{.0}$, C_{10} , etc. cf. [H].

⁵) $d_T = \dim \overline{D_T \mathfrak{H}}$ where $D_T = (I - T^* T)^{1/2}$.

⁶) I.e., $\|\Theta(0)a\| < \|a\|$ for every non-zero, constant m -vector a .

Note that this is a contraction of class $C_{.0}$ with defect indices R and $R+L$, so that L is the difference of the defect indices. Also note that since $S(1)$ is the trivial operator on the space $\mathfrak{H}(1)=\{0\}$, we can omit from the sum (3.3) the terms $S(e_k)$ (if any) for which $e_k=1$ and obtain in such a way a Jordan operator with non-constant inner functions e_k .

We have therefore the following:

Theorem 2. *Every contraction T of class $C_{.0}$ on a separable Hilbert space, with finite defect indices, say $\mathfrak{d}_T=m$ and $\mathfrak{d}_{T^*}=n$ ($n \geq m$), is completely injection-similar (and if $n=m$ even quasi-similar) to the Jordan operator*

$$(3.5) \quad J = S(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_K) \oplus S_{n-m}$$

formed by those invariant factors e_k of the characteristic function Θ of T , which are non-constant; we have

$$(3.6) \quad \mu_T \leq 2\mu_J, \quad \mu_J \leq 2\mu_T.$$

Remark. If $n=m$ quasi-similarity of T to a Jordan-operator was first proved in [9]; another proof, exhibiting the functions e_k as the invariant factors of the characteristic function was given, in case $n=m$, in [2].

Now we turn to prove that even *uniqueness* holds.

Theorem 3. *The only Jordan operator injection-similar to T is the canonical one given by (3.5).*

On account of Theorem 2, Theorem 3 will be established if we prove:

Theorem 4. *Let*

$$J = S(q_1, \dots, q_r) \oplus S_l \quad \text{and} \quad J' = S(p_1, \dots, p_R) \oplus S_L$$

be Jordan operators. J can be injected into J' if and only if $l \leq L$, $r \leq R$, and each q_k is a divisor of p_k ($k=1, \dots, r$).

Proof. That the conditions are sufficient, is obvious (use the fact that S_l and $S(q)$ are unitarily equivalent to parts of S_L and $S(p)$, respectively, in invariant subspaces, whenever $l \leq L$ and q is an inner divisor of p).

To prove necessity first observe that an injection X of J into J' induces an injection of S_l into J' . Now as J' is of class $C_{.0}$ and has defect indices $\mathfrak{d}_{J'}=R$ and $\mathfrak{d}_{J'^*}=R+L$, inequality $l \leq L$ is a consequence of Theorem 5, to be proved in Sec. 4.

Next observe that X also induces an injection X_0 of $S(Q)=S(q_1, \dots, q_r)$ into J' . Since

$$J'^k X_0 = X_0 S(Q)^k \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad k \rightarrow \infty$$

this implies that the range of X_0 is contained in the space of the C_{00} part of J' , i.e. we can consider X_0 as an injection of $S(Q)$ into $S(P) = S(p_1, \dots, p_R)$:

$$(3.7) \quad X_0: \mathfrak{S}(Q) \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}(P), \quad S(P)X_0 = X_0S(Q).$$

Hence we infer that $r \leq R$ and that q_k is a divisor of p_k ($k=1, \dots, r$) by the same arguments as in [9], namely in the following way.

We begin by considering an arbitrary inner function w and define

$$\mathfrak{M} = \overline{w(S(Q))\mathfrak{S}(Q)}, \quad M = S(Q)|\mathfrak{M},$$

$$\mathfrak{M}' = \overline{w(S(P))\mathfrak{S}(P)}, \quad M' = S(P)|\mathfrak{M}',$$

and $Y = X_0|\mathfrak{M}$. Clearly, $M: \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}$, $M': \mathfrak{M}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}'$, and as (3.7) implies

$$w(S(P))X_0 = X_0w(S(Q))$$

we have

$$Y: \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}'.$$

Since X_0 is injective so is Y . From (3.7) it also follows

$$M'Y = S(P)X_0|\mathfrak{M} = X_0S(Q)|\mathfrak{M} = YM,$$

i.e. M can be injected into M' .

Next observe that

$$\mathfrak{M} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathfrak{M}_i, \quad \text{where} \quad \mathfrak{M}_i = \overline{w(S(q_i))\mathfrak{S}(q_i)},$$

$$\mathfrak{M}' = \bigoplus_{j=1}^R \mathfrak{M}'_j, \quad \text{where} \quad \mathfrak{M}'_j = \overline{w(S(p_j))\mathfrak{S}(p_j)}$$

and accordingly,

$$M = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r M_i, \quad \text{where} \quad M_i = S(q_i)|\mathfrak{M}_i,$$

$$M' = \bigoplus_{j=1}^R M'_j, \quad \text{where} \quad M'_j = S(p_j)|\mathfrak{M}'_j.$$

Now M_i is unitarily equivalent to $S(q_i^w)$ and M'_j is unitarily equivalent to $S(p_j^w)$, where

$$q_i^w = \frac{q_i}{q_i \wedge w}, \quad p_j^w = \frac{p_j}{p_j \wedge w}. \quad ^7)$$

⁷⁾ This fact was used, but not quite explicitly explained in [9]. An explicit treatment follows at the end of this section.

[By virtue of Lemma 2 of [9], in each one of the sequences

$$q_1^w, q_2^w, \dots, q_r^w \quad \text{and} \quad p_1^w, p_2^w, \dots, p_R^w,$$

each term is a divisor of its predecessor.] Then M and M' are unitarily equivalent respectively to

$$M^w = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r S(q_i^w) \quad \text{and} \quad M'^w = \bigoplus_{j=1}^R S(p_j^w),$$

and hence M^w can also be injected into M'^w .

Now we apply Proposition 2 of [9] to M^w and M'^w remarking that in the proof on pp. 103—104 of [9] the injective property of X is only used. We infer that the number of non-constant q^w cannot exceed the number of non-constant p^w .

In particular, taking $w=1$ this gives $r \leq R$.

Take now $w=p_k$ for a fixed $k \leq r$. As $\frac{p_j}{p_j \wedge p_k} = 1$ for $j \geq k$, the number of non-constant p^w is, in this case, less than k . Therefore, q_k^w must be constant, i.e. we have $\frac{q_k}{q_k \wedge p_k} = 1$, thus q_k is divisor of p_k .

This concludes the proof of Theorem 4.

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For sake of completeness we are going to make explicit the *unitary equivalence*, for any inner functions q and w , of the operators

$$S\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad S(q)|\mathfrak{U}, \quad \text{where} \quad \mathfrak{U} = \overline{w(S(q))\mathfrak{H}(q)}.$$

First, observe that

$$w(S(q))\mathfrak{H}(q) = P_{\mathfrak{H}(q)}(w \cdot \mathfrak{H}(q)) = P_{\mathfrak{H}(q)}(wH^2 + qH^2),$$

and therefore⁸⁾

$$\mathfrak{U} = \overline{P_{\mathfrak{H}(q)}((w \wedge q)H^2)} = q[\bar{q}(w \wedge q)H^2]_-,^9)$$

where $[\cdot]_-$ denotes orthogonal projection from L^2 onto $L^2 \ominus H^2$. Hence,

$$\overline{q \wedge w} \cdot \mathfrak{U} = \frac{q}{q \wedge w} \left[\overline{\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w} \right) H^2} \right]_- = \mathfrak{H}\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w}\right),$$

and we infer that multiplication by $\overline{q \wedge w}$ is a unitary operator W from \mathfrak{U} onto $\mathfrak{H}\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w}\right)$.

⁸⁾ A superscript bar denotes closure or complex conjugate, depending on the context.

⁹⁾ It is easy to prove that

$$P_{\mathfrak{H}(q)}u = q[\bar{q}u]_- \quad \text{for any} \quad u \in L^2.$$

This implies in particular that $[\bar{q}H^2]_-$ equals $\bar{q}\mathfrak{H}(q)$, and hence is closed.

For any $h \in \mathfrak{H}$ we have, on the unit circle,

$$\begin{aligned} S\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w}\right) Wh &= S\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w}\right) (\overline{q \wedge w} h) = \frac{q}{q \wedge w} \left[\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w} \right) \cdot \chi \cdot \overline{q \wedge w} \cdot h \right]_- = \\ &= \frac{q}{q \wedge w} [\bar{q} \chi h]_- = \overline{q \wedge w} \cdot S(q) h = WS(q) h, \end{aligned}$$

and therefore,

$$S\left(\frac{q}{q \wedge w}\right) W = W(S(q)|\mathfrak{H}).$$

4. Injection of unilateral shifts. Shift index of an operator

1. We are going to prove a statement which we already referred to in the proof of Theorem 4.

Theorem 5. *Let T be a contraction of class $C_{.0}$ with finite defect indices $\mathfrak{d}_T = m$ and $\mathfrak{d}_{T^*} = n$ ($m \leq n$). If a unilateral shift S_α , of multiplicity α , can be injected into T then $\alpha \leq n - m$.*

Proof. Suppose S_α can be injected into T for some $\alpha > n - m$. Then S_{n-m+1} can also be injected into T ; thus considering the model $S(\Theta)$ of T we have $S(\Theta)X = XS_{n-m+1}$ for $\Theta = \Theta_T$ and an injection

$$X: H_{n-m+1}^2 \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}(\Theta);$$

Θ is an $n \times m$ matrix valued, pure inner function. By the Lifting Theorem (cf. [H], Theorem VI.3.6) we have

$$(4.1) \quad Xu = P_{\mathfrak{H}(\Theta)} \Xi u \quad \text{for } u \in H_{n-m+1}^2,$$

where Ξ is some $n \times (n-m+1)$ matrix over H^∞ . Obviously, we have $Xu = 0$ for some $u \in H_{n-m+1}^2$ if

$$(4.2) \quad \Xi u = \Theta w \quad \text{for some } w \in H_m^2.$$

Consider (4.2) as a linear system of equations in the $(n-m+1) + m = n+1$ unknowns $u_1, \dots, u_{n-m+1}, w_1, \dots, w_m$. Since this system consists of n equations, there exists a non-zero solution $[u, w]$ in the quotient field derived from the algebra H^∞ ; multiplying by the smallest common multiple of the denominators we get a non-zero solution $[u, w]$ over H^∞ . Then u must be also non-zero; otherwise (4.2) would imply $\Theta w = 0$, $w = \Theta^* \Theta w = 0$, thus $[u, w]$ would be zero. Thus $u \neq 0$ so that X is not an injection: a contraction which achieves the proof.

Theorem 5 has the following complement:

Theorem 6. *If T is a contraction of class $C_{.0}$ with finite defect index $\mathfrak{d}_T = m$, then S_{n-m} can be injected in T whether or not $\mathfrak{d}_{T^*} = n$ is finite or infinite.*

Proof. Considering T in its model $S(\Theta)$ we wish to find an injection $X: H_\alpha^2 \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}(\Theta)$ satisfying $S(\Theta)X = XS_\alpha$, where $\alpha = n - m$. By virtue of the same Lifting Theorem as above this means to find an $n \times \alpha$ matrix Ξ over H^∞ such that condition

$$(4.3) \quad \Xi u = \Theta w \quad \text{for some } u \in H_\alpha^2 \quad \text{and} \quad w \in H_m^2$$

implies $\mu = 0$.

As a consequence of formula (1.6) there exists $\sigma \in \Sigma_m^n$ such that Θ_σ has non-zero determinant. Choose for Ξ the (constant) matrix such that

$$\Xi_\sigma = 0 \text{ (the zero } m \times \alpha \text{ matrix), } \Xi_{\bar{\sigma}} = I_\alpha \text{ (the } \alpha \times \alpha \text{ unit matrix),}$$

where $\bar{\sigma}$ denotes the complement of σ in $\{1, \dots, n\}$ or $\{1, 2, \dots\}$ according as $n < \infty$ or $n = \infty$. Then we have $\Xi_\sigma u = 0$ so (4.3) implies $\Theta_\sigma w = 0$, and hence $w = 0$. Therefore,

$$u = I_\alpha u = \Xi_{\bar{\sigma}} u = \Theta_{\bar{\sigma}} w = 0.$$

Thus, X is an injection and the proof is done.

Combination of Theorems 5 and 6 gives:

Theorem 5/6. *If T is a contraction of class $C_{.0}$, with $\mathfrak{d}_T = m < \infty$, then S_α can be injected into T if and only if $\alpha \leq n - m$, where $n = \mathfrak{d}_{T^*} (\leq \infty)$.*

2. Let us define, for any operator T , the number

$$(4.4) \quad \kappa_T = \sup \{ \alpha : S_\alpha \text{ can be injected into } T \}$$

and call it the *shift index* of T ; κ_T is a non-negative integer or $\infty (= \aleph_0)$.

Theorem 5/6 expresses that for a contraction T of class $C_{.0}$, with finite defect index \mathfrak{d}_T , we have

$$(4.5) \quad \kappa_T = \mathfrak{d}_{T^*} - \mathfrak{d}_T,$$

and this supremum is attained even if $\mathfrak{d}_{T^*} = \infty$.

On the other hand, if T is any contraction of class C_0 (i.e. completely non-unitary and such that $\varphi(T) = 0$ for some inner function φ) then

$$\kappa_T = 0.$$

Indeed, if $TX = XS$ for some injection X then we also have $\varphi(T)X = X\varphi(S)$ and therefore $\varphi(S) = 0$. But this is impossible since $\varphi(S)$ is an isometry: restriction of

the unitary operator $\varphi(U)$, where U is the (simple) bilateral shift extending the unilateral shift S .

Further examples were studied in [10]: For every *non-algebraic strict contraction* T we have $\kappa_T = \infty$. Also, we have $\kappa_{S^*} = \infty$, and in both cases the value ∞ is actually *attained* in (4.4).

From the definition (4.4) of κ_T we immediately infer the inequality

$$(4.6) \quad \kappa_T \cong \sum_j \kappa_{T_j} \quad \text{if} \quad T \succcurlyeq \bigoplus_j^I T_j.$$

and in particular

$$(4.7) \quad \kappa_T \cong \kappa_{T'} \quad \text{if} \quad T' \text{ is a restriction of } T \text{ to an invariant subspace.}$$

As an application consider the case of a $T \in C_0$ with finite \mathfrak{d}_T . Then $T' \in C_0$, and $I' - T'^* T'$ is a restriction of $P'(I - T^* T)$; hence $\mathfrak{d}_{T'} \leq \mathfrak{d}_T$; thus by (4.7) and (4.5)

$$\mathfrak{d}_{T^*} - \mathfrak{d}_T \cong \mathfrak{d}_{T'^*} - \mathfrak{d}_{T'}, \quad \mathfrak{d}_{T'^*} \leq \mathfrak{d}_{T^*} - (\mathfrak{d}_T - \mathfrak{d}_{T'})$$

and therefore,

$$(4.8) \quad \mathfrak{d}_T = \mathfrak{d}_{T'} + p \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{d}_{T^*} \cong \mathfrak{d}_{T'^*} + p \quad \text{with some} \quad p \geq 0.$$

Let us note that we can arrive at the results (4.8) also by applying the connections between invariant parts of T and regular factorizations of its characteristic functions. Also note that for completely non-unitary contractions of general type we have by [H], Proposition VII.3.6,

$$\mathfrak{d}_{T'} \cong \mathfrak{d}_T \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{d}_{T'^*} \leq \mathfrak{d}_{T^*} + \mathfrak{d}_T.$$

3. For another application of Theorem 5 consider an operator T such that

$$(4.9) \quad T \preccurlyeq S_k \quad \text{for some} \quad k \geq 1 \quad (\text{finite or infinite}).$$

Then there exists an injection X such that $S_k X = XT$. The closure of the range of X is invariant for S_k ; let S'_k be the restriction of S_k to this invariant subspace: S'_k is also a unilateral shift and its multiplicity h is $\leq k$. (Consequence of the analogous fact for bilateral shifts; [H], Proposition I.2.1.) As we have $S'_k \succcurlyeq T$ it follows that $S_h \succcurlyeq T$. From the relations

$$S_h \succcurlyeq T \preccurlyeq S_k$$

we infer $S_h \preccurlyeq S_k$. Since $S_h \in C_{10}$ and $\kappa_{S_h} = h$, Theorem 5 implies that $h \geq k$. Thus $h = k$, and hence

$$S_k \succcurlyeq T, \quad S_k^* \preccurlyeq T^*.$$

Recalling (1.8) and (1.10—12) we obtain

$$\mu_T \cong \mu_{S_k} = k, \quad \mu_{T^*} \leq \mu_{S_k^*} = 1.$$

Thus we have proved:

Proposition 1. *For any operator T satisfying condition (4.9) we have*

$$(4.10) \quad S_k \succ T, \quad \mu_T \cong k, \quad \mu_{T^*} = 1.$$

Corollary 1. *If both (4.9) and $T \succ S_k$ hold then*

$$T \sim S_k, \quad \mu_T = k.$$

Observe that if T is a *contraction* of class C_{10} with finite defect indices then its Jordan model (3.5) cannot contain a non-zero C_0 -part since otherwise T also contained a non-zero C_0 -part; therefore the model reduces to the unilateral shift part, i.e. we have

$$T \stackrel{cl}{\sim} S_k \quad \text{with} \quad k = \kappa_T = \mathfrak{d}_{T^*} - \mathfrak{d}_T.$$

(It is obvious that, conversely, $S_k \stackrel{i}{\succ} T$ for some k implies $T \in C_1$.) So Proposition 1 has:

Corollary 2. *For every contraction T of class C_{10} with finite defect indices we have $S_k \succ T \stackrel{cl}{\succ} S_k$, where $k = \mathfrak{d}_{T^*} - \mathfrak{d}_T$, and $\mu_T \cong k$, $\mu_{T^*} = 1$.*

5. An example

As an illuminating example we are going to study in detail the contractions T of class C_{10} , with defect indices $\mathfrak{d}_T = 1$ and $\mathfrak{d}_{T^*} = 2$, or equivalently, the operators $T = S(\Theta)$ associated with purely contractive inner and $*$ -outer functions of the form

$$\Theta = \begin{bmatrix} \vartheta_1 \\ \vartheta_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

i.e. for which

$$(5.1) \quad \vartheta_1, \vartheta_2 \in H^\infty, \quad |\vartheta_1(0)| < 1, \quad |\vartheta_2(0)| < 1,$$

$$(5.2) \quad |\vartheta_1(e^{it})|^2 + |\vartheta_2(e^{it})|^2 = 1$$

a.e. on the unit circle, and

$$(5.3) \quad \vartheta_1^\sim H^2 + \vartheta_2^\sim H^2 \text{ is dense in } H^2.^{10)}$$

By a theorem of Beurling condition (5.3) is equivalent to the condition $\vartheta_1^\sim \wedge \vartheta_2^\sim = 1$ and this in turn is equivalent to

$$(5.3)' \quad \vartheta_1 \wedge \vartheta_2 = 1.$$

¹⁰⁾ $u^\sim(\lambda) = \overline{u(\bar{\lambda})}$ for scalar valued, and $A^\sim(\lambda) = A(\bar{\lambda})^*$ for operator valued functions.

By Corollary 2 to Proposition 1 we have then

$$(5.4) \quad S \succ T \succ^{cl} S \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_T \equiv 1, \quad \mu_{T^*} = 1.$$

The question arises whether we have even $T \succ S$ and, as a consequence, $T \sim S$?

To this effect let us try to find a quasi-affinity $X: H^2 \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}(\Theta)$ such that

$$S(\Theta)X = XS.$$

By virtue of the Lifting Theorem ([H], Theorem VI.3.6) the operators X satisfying this equation are precisely those which result in the form

$$(5.5) \quad Xu = P_{\mathfrak{H}(\Theta)} \Xi u \quad (u \in H^2)$$

from some "matrix" $\Xi = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ over H^∞ .

On account of (5.5) the range of X is dense in $\mathfrak{H}(\Theta)$ if and only if

$$(5.6) \quad \Xi H^2 + \Theta H^2 \quad \text{is dense in} \quad H^2.$$

As $\vartheta_1 \wedge \vartheta_2 = 1$ implies, by a theorem of Beurling, that $[\vartheta_2, -\vartheta_1]H^2$ is dense in H^2 , and as $[\vartheta_2, -\vartheta_1]\Xi = \vartheta_2 x_1 - \vartheta_1 x_2$ and $[\vartheta_2, -\vartheta_1]\Theta = 0$, condition (5.6) implies that

$$(5.7) \quad (\vartheta_2 x_1 - \vartheta_1 x_2)H^2 \quad \text{is dense in} \quad H^2,$$

which, again by a theorem of Beurling, means that

$$(5.7)' \quad \vartheta_2 x_1 - \vartheta_1 x_2 \quad \text{is an outer function.}$$

Conversely, (5.7)' implies (5.6) because

$$\Xi H^2 + \Theta H^2 = [\Xi, \Theta]H^2 \supset [\Xi, \Theta][\Xi, \Theta]^A H^2 = (\det [\Xi, \Theta])H^2 = (\vartheta_2 x_1 - \vartheta_1 x_2)H^2.$$

For Ξ satisfying (5.7)' the operator X has also the property of being an injection. On account of (5.5) we have to show to this effect that if $\Xi u = \Theta w$ for some $u, w \in H^2$ then $u = 0$. Now our assumption can also be written in the form $[\Xi, \Theta] \begin{bmatrix} u \\ -w \end{bmatrix} = 0$; whence $(\det [\Xi, \Theta]) \begin{bmatrix} u \\ -w \end{bmatrix} = [\Xi, \Theta]^A \cdot [\Xi, \Theta] \begin{bmatrix} u \\ -w \end{bmatrix} = 0$. As $\det [\Xi, \Theta]$ is an outer function and therefore is not zero this implies $u = 0$.

Thus we have proved so far that $T \sim S$ if and only if

$$(5.8) \quad \vartheta_2 x_1 - \vartheta_1 x_2 \quad \text{is outer for some} \quad x_1, x_2 \in H^\infty.$$

Let us find an operator theoretic meaning of condition (5.8).

We know that (5.8) implies $T \sim S$, and hence $\mu_T = 1$. Let us show that, conversely, $\mu_T = 1$ implies (5.8).

Thus suppose that $T (=S(\Theta))$ has a cyclic vector $\begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix}$, i.e. the vectors $S(\Theta)^n \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix} (n=0, 1, \dots)$ span $\mathfrak{H}(\Theta)$. Then the set

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix} e^{int} + \Theta H^2 \right\}_{n=0}^{\infty} \text{ spans } H^2_2$$

and therefore (multiplying on the left by the 1×2 matrix valued outer function $[\mathfrak{g}_2, -\mathfrak{g}_1]$) the set

$$\{(\mathfrak{g}_2 \xi_1 - \mathfrak{g}_1 \xi_2) e^{int}\}_{n=0}^{\infty} \text{ spans } H^2,$$

thus $\mathfrak{g}_2 \xi_1 - \mathfrak{g}_1 \xi_2$ is a (scalar valued) outer function. Note that ξ_1, ξ_2 are in H^2 but not necessarily in H^∞ . We can construct $x_1, x_2 \in H^\infty$ such that $\mathfrak{g}_2 x_1 - \mathfrak{g}_1 x_2$ is also outer, in the following way. The function

$$g(t) = [|\xi_1(e^{it})|^2 + |\xi_2(e^{it})|^2 + 1]^{-1/2}$$

obviously satisfies

$$0 \leq g(t) \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad |\log g(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2} [|\xi_1(e^{it})|^2 + |\xi_2(e^{it})|^2] \in L^1.$$

Hence we infer that the outer function

$$h(\lambda) = \exp \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{e^{it} + \lambda}{e^{it} - \lambda} \log g(t) dt \quad (|\lambda| < 1)$$

belongs to H^∞ and satisfies $|h(e^{it})| = g(t)$ a.e. on the unit circle. Then $x_1 = \xi_1 h$ and $x_2 = \xi_2 h$ belong to H^2 , and moreover, since

$$|x_k(e^{it})| = |\xi_k(e^{it})| g(t) \leq 1 \quad (k = 1, 2),$$

we conclude that x_1, x_2 actually belong to H^∞ , and we have

$$\mathfrak{g}_2 x_1 - \mathfrak{g}_1 x_2 = (\mathfrak{g}_2 \xi_1 - \mathfrak{g}_1 \xi_2) h = \text{outer} \times \text{outer} = \text{outer}.$$

Summing up, we have proved:

Proposition 2. *For a contraction $T = S(\Theta)$ of class C_{10} , with defect indices $\mathfrak{d}_T = 1$ and $\mathfrak{d}_{T^*} = 2$, the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) $T \sim S$,
- (ii) $T \succ S$,
- (iii) $\mu_T = 1$,
- (iv) $\mathfrak{g}_2 x_1 - \mathfrak{g}_1 x_2$ is an outer function for some $x_1, x_2 \in H^\infty$.

Now there do exist functions $\Theta = \begin{bmatrix} \mathfrak{g}_1 \\ \mathfrak{g}_2 \end{bmatrix}$ for which (5.1)–(5.3)' hold, but (5.8) does not. Such is the case when

$$\mathfrak{g}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} B, \quad \mathfrak{g}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} E,$$

where B is an infinite Blaschke product with zeros $a_n = 1 - b_n$ ($0 \leq b_n < 1$, $\sum b_n < \infty$) and E is the "singular" inner function

$$A(\lambda) = \exp \frac{\lambda + 1}{\lambda - 1}.$$

The property $B \wedge E = 1$ is obvious. For the fact that $Bx + Ey$ will not be outer at any choice of $x, y \in H^\infty$ (noticed by the second author at an early stage of the present investigations), see NORDGREN [4].

Thus for the operator $T = S(\Theta)$ corresponding to this example we have $\mu_T > 1$. As on other hand by (3.6) $\mu_T \leq 2\mu_S = 2$ it follows that $\mu_T = 2$. So we have proved:

Proposition 3. *The Jordan model J of an operator T of the type considered in Theorem 2 is completely injection-similar, but not always quasi-similar to T . While $\mu_T \leq 2\mu_J$ always holds it occurs that $\mu_T \neq \mu_J$ and even that $\mu_T = 2\mu_J$.*

Thus injection-similarity, and even complete injection-similarity, are definitely weaker relations than quasi-similarity.

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